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Michigan Association of Police

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September 21, 2009

Senator Tom George, Chair P.O. Box 30036 Lansing MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Tom George,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 4459 which would, among other things, add trauma scene cleanups under the medical waste act and House Bill 4458 which would help ensure that only qualified individuals are handling trauma scene cleanups.

The leadership and membership of our organization feel this legislation is necessary to properly protect the health and safety of the public as well as law enforcement officers and crime scene investigators. A trauma scene cleanup involves the proper removal and disposal of blood-borne pathogens and body organisms generated after a car accident, suicide, crime scene, or industrial accident. The work involved in cleaning such an incident requires qualified individuals to prevent mishaps with potentially harmful waste.

Mishandling the cleaning of a trauma scene can have a negative impact on law enforcement investigations. For example, there have been instances where biohazard waste disposed of in neighborhood dumpsters in essence created a second crime scene when it was discovered. This site of the disposal then also needs to be investigated by our officers. Every time a trauma scene cleanup is mishandled, it costs our local governments and law enforcement officers wasted money and man hours.

House Bill 4459 was a product of a workgroup made up of the Department of Environmental Quality and an array of stakeholders with knowledge of and interest in medical waste and surrounding issues.

House Bill 4458 would require that a trauma scene waste management practitioner register with the State of Michigan. This oversight will ensure Michigan's consumers are receiving top quality services from companies at reasonable prices. They will also ensure that trauma scenes are properly investigated and man hours are not wasted tracking down other infected sites.

For public health, environmental and other reasons, Michigan needs better oversight over the clean up of trauma sites. These are common sense reforms that will benefit the citizens of the state. For these reasons, we support House Bills 4458 and 4459 and urge your support as well.

Sincerely,

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF POLICE

Fred Timpner

Executive Director

cc: Senator Bruce Patterson, Vice-Chair

Senator Hansen Clarke, Minority Vice-Chair

Senator John Gleason

Senator Alan Sanborn Senator Jason Allen Senator Gilda Jacobs

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